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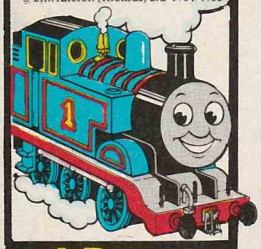

12th Dec. 1987
No4 35p

Extra pages!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

James comes off the rails!

THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE!

Peep! Peep! Hello! In this issue you can read about how I helped James the Red Engine when he had trouble with some trucks. The Fat Controller was so pleased he gave me my own branch line. There's another story about James too – and a bootlace!

BE A WINNER!
Don't miss our super Competition on page 19!

CLUB PACK!

This Club Pack will be sent to you when you join our Club – the Thomas Club! It's easy to join, and it's **free!** All you have to do is collect **3 tokens** like the one at the bottom of the page – there'll be one in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Send them, together with a large, stamped addressed envelope (at least 21cm ×16cm) to: *The Thomas Club, Marvel Comics, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA.*

Please allow 28 days delivery of your Club Pack.

FACT FILE:

James the Red Engine

James is a medium-sized engine. His six driving wheels are not as big as Gordon's and not as small as Thomas's. He has a fine scarlet coat and brass dome and likes to think of himself as a really splendid engine. Sometimes this makes him think he should be doing more important work than he does – and this usually lands him in trouble!

SPECIAL OFFER!
For details of how to have **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** sent straight to your home every fortnight – and how to become a Club member **straight away** – turn to page 7!

THOMAS TOKEN

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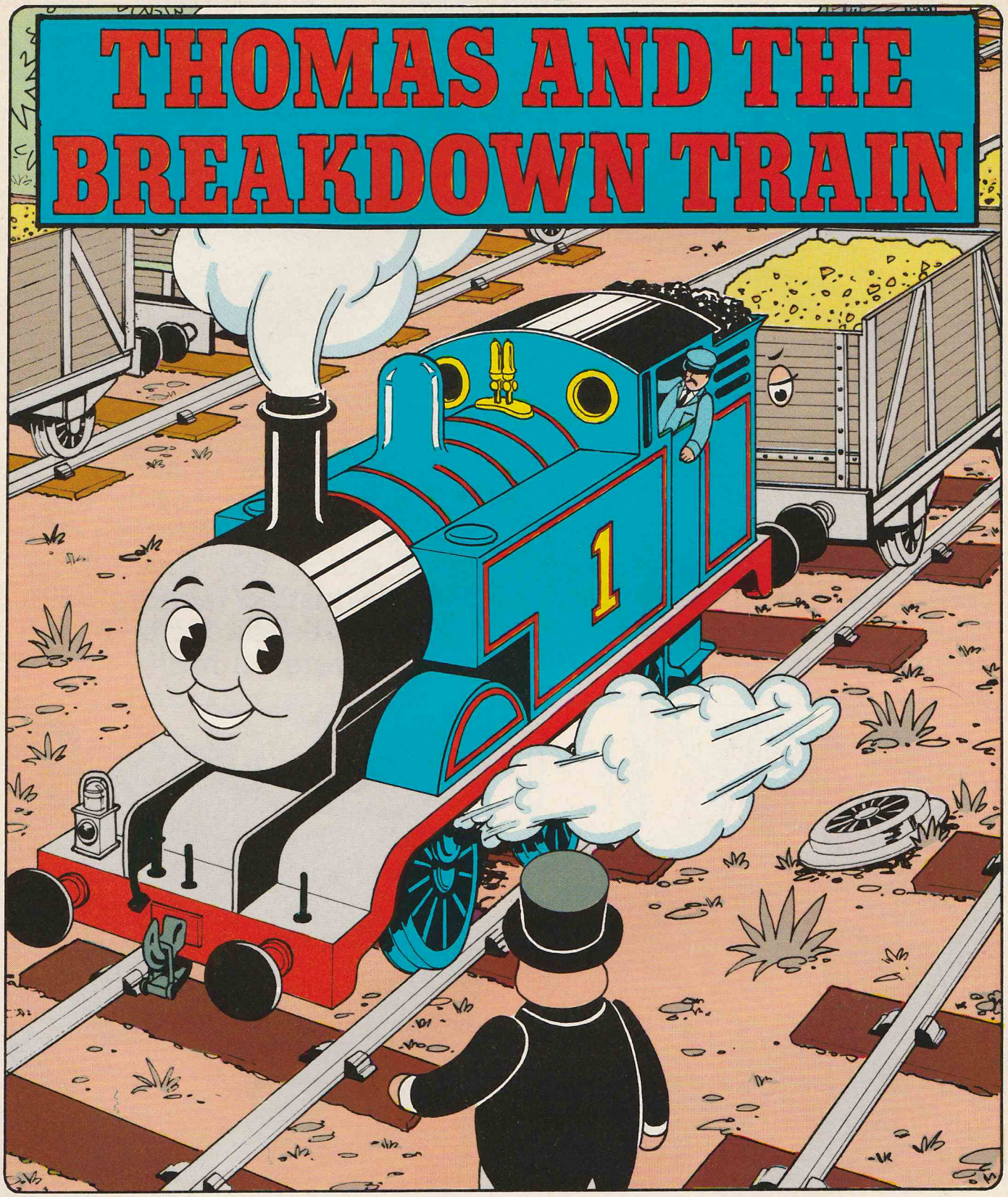
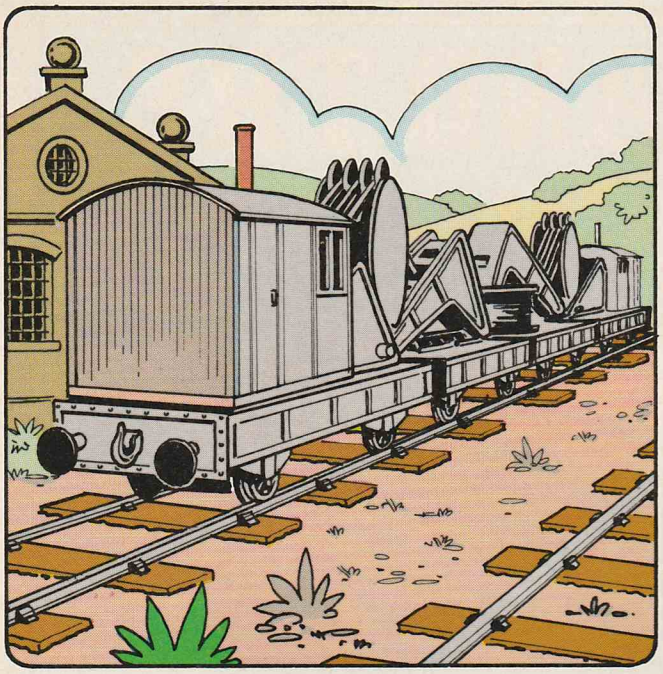
A listen and look story!

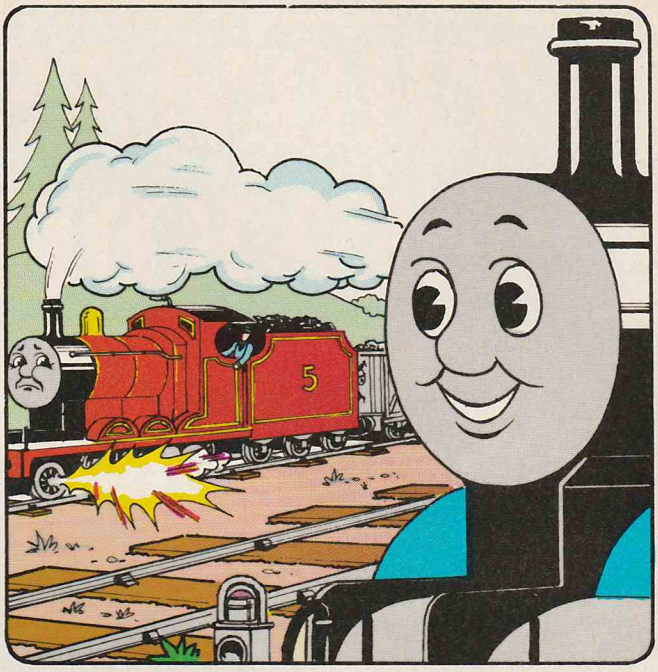


1. Every day, when he came to the station, the Fat Controller said "Hello," to Thomas. "Remember, don't be impatient. You can be a Really Useful Engine."

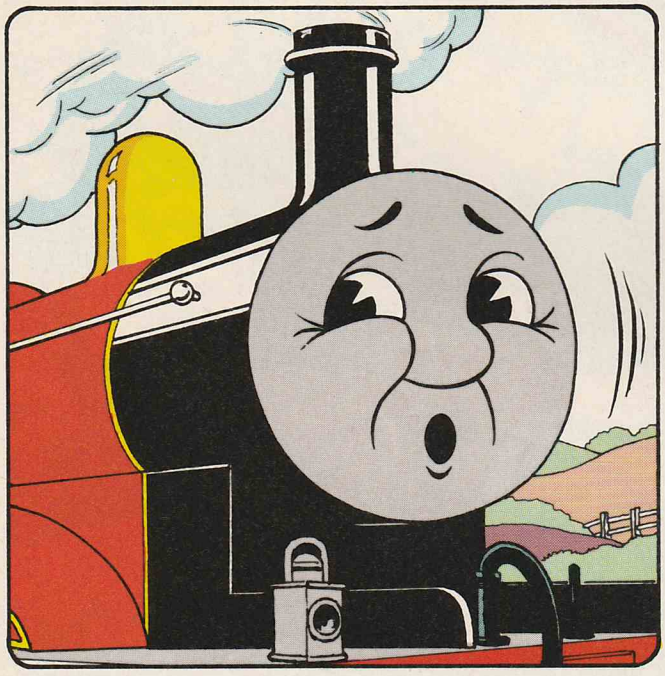
2. "Don't let the silly trucks tease you," the Fat Controller said. There were lots of trucks, and Thomas worked very hard pushing and pulling them about.



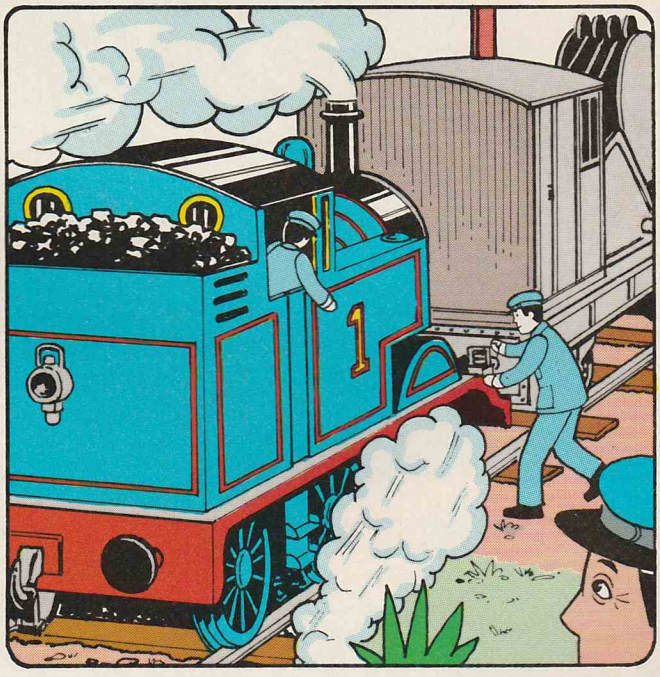
3. There was also a small coach and two cranes. "That is the breakdown train," Thomas's driver told him. "The two cranes can lift very heavy things."



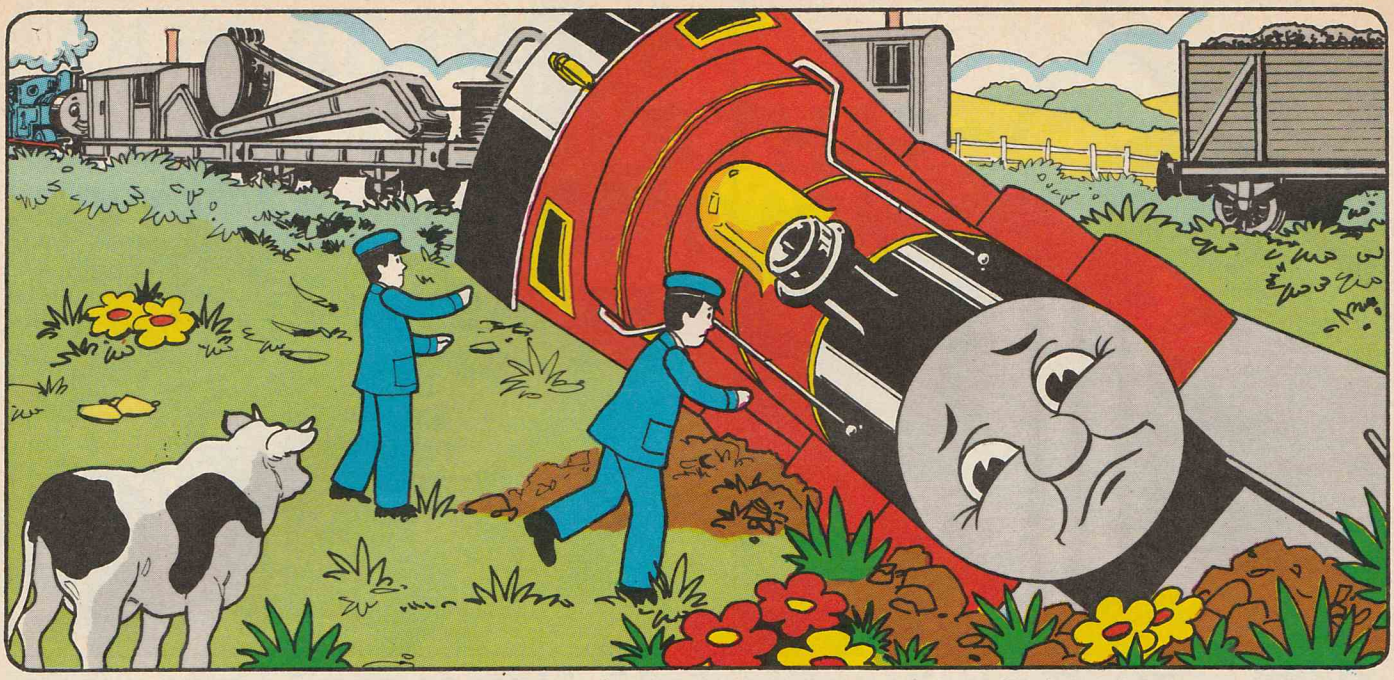
4. One day, a goods train came rushing through the yard much too fast. "Help! Help!" whistled the engine. It was James and his brake blocks were on fire.



5. James was frightened. "They're pushing me," he panted. "They're pushing me." "On, on, on," laughed the trucks and poor James disappeared.

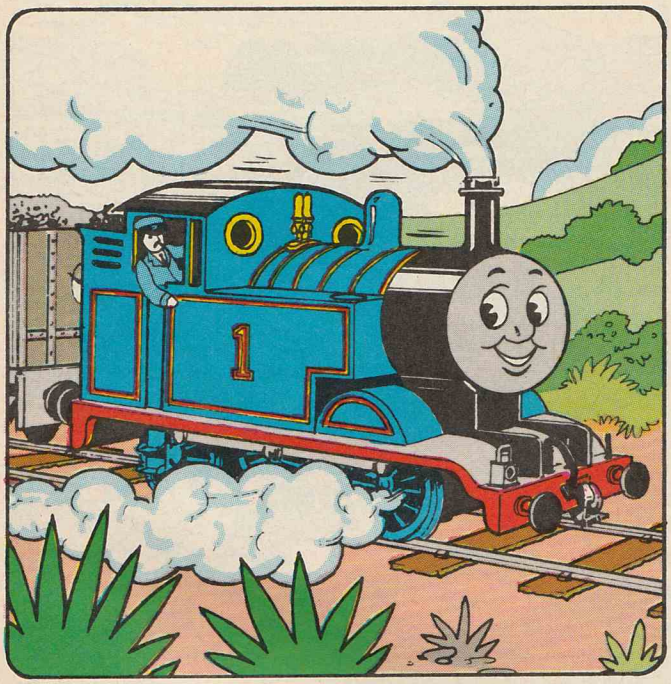


6. Soon came the alarm. "James is off the line! Bring the breakdown train quickly!" They coupled on Thomas and off they went. Thomas worked his hardest.



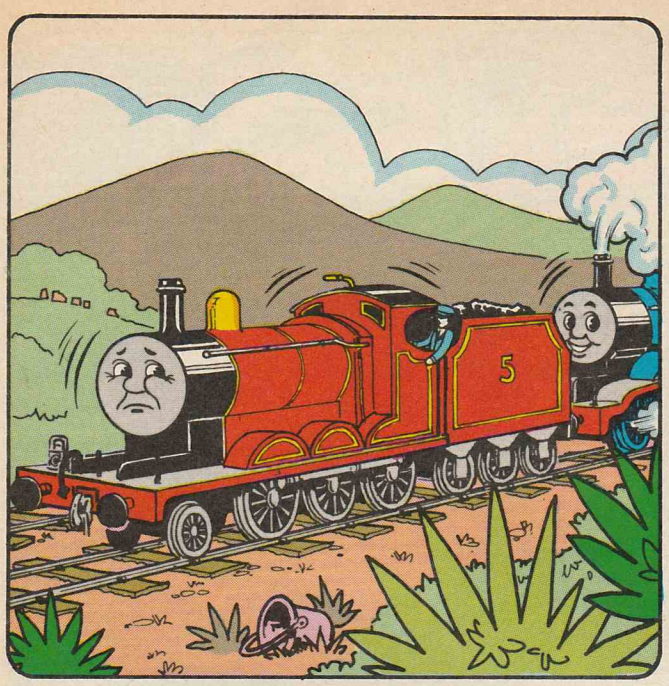
7. "Hurry, hurry, hurry," puffed Thomas. He wasn't pretending to be Gordon. He really meant it. "I do hope poor James isn't hurt. Bother those trucks."

8. They found James at a bend in the line. He was in a field. His driver was feeling to see if he was hurt. "Those wooden brakes were no good," he said.



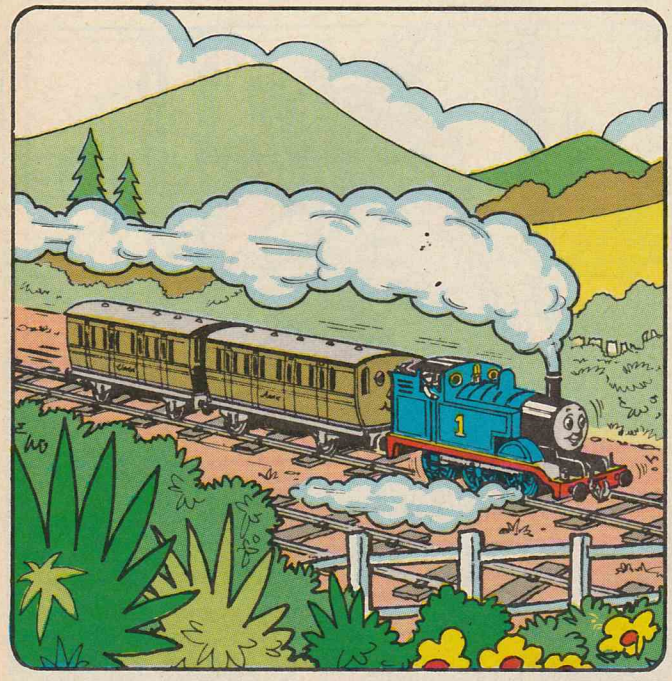
9. First, Thomas pushed the breakdown train along side. Then he pulled the unhurt trucks out of the way. It was a big job. Thomas was hard at work all afternoon.

10. They left the broken trucks and lifted James back on to the rails using the two cranes. He just couldn't move. So Thomas helped him to the shed.

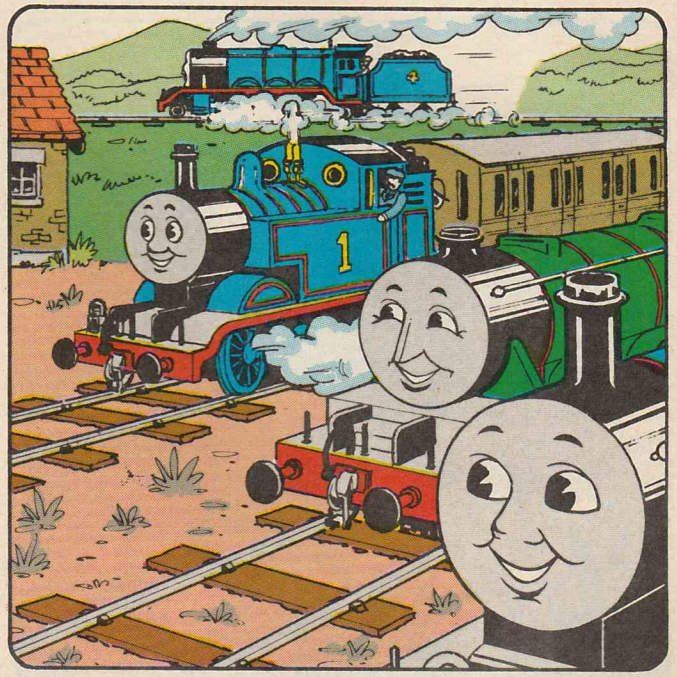


11. The Fat Controller was waiting for them. "Thomas," he said. "I'm very pleased with you. I've heard all about it. You are a Really Useful Engine."

12. "James shall have some proper brakes and a fresh coat of paint," he said. "And you shall have your own branch line." "Thank you, Sir!" said Thomas.



13. Now Thomas is as happy as can be. He has a branch line of his own. He puffs backwards and forwards all day, with his two coaches, Annie and Clarabel.



14. Edward and Henry stop by Thomas quite often, to tell him the news. Gordon is always in a hurry, but he whistles, "Poop, poop," and Thomas whistles back.

THE END.

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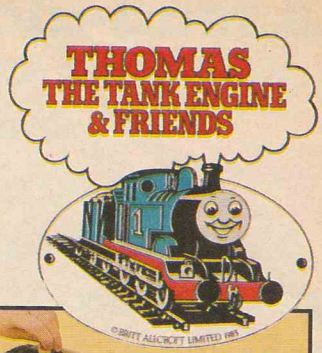

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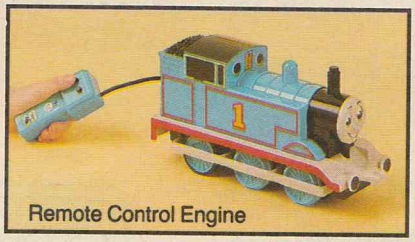
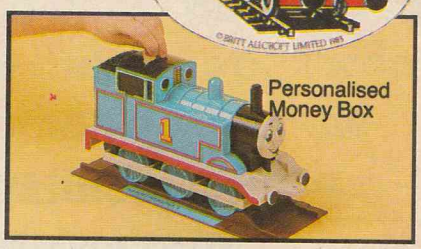
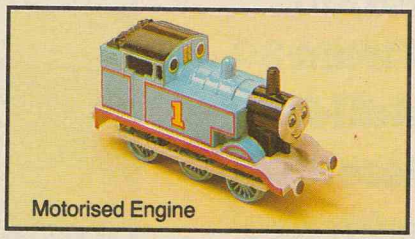
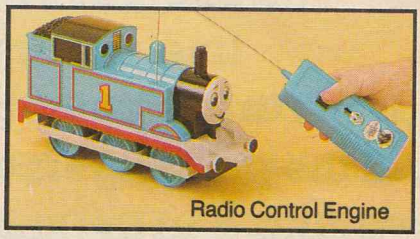

Remote Control Engine


Personalised Money Box


Motorised Engine


Radio Control Engine

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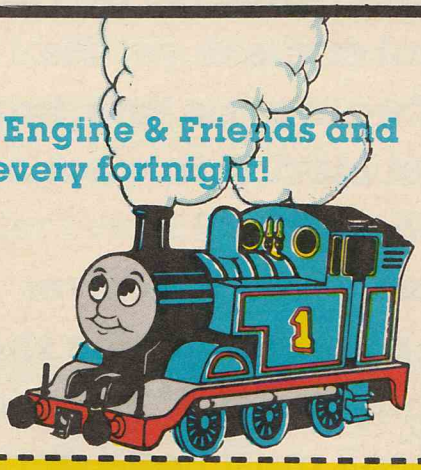

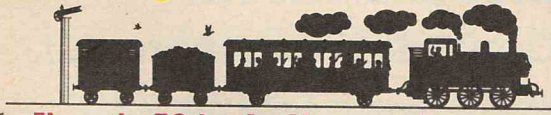

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A read-aloud story!

Thomas in a

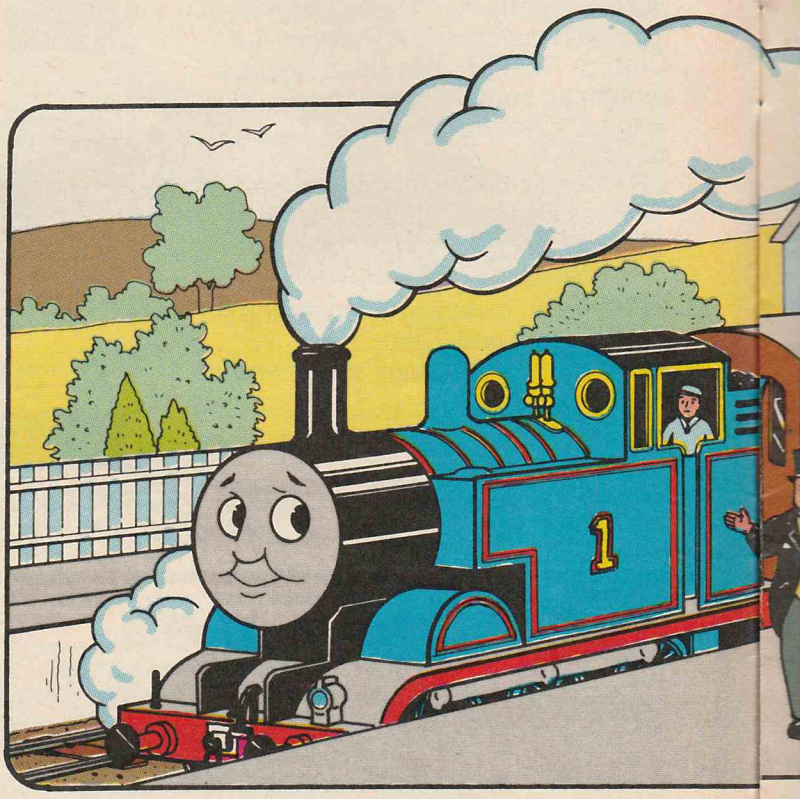
One morning on Thomas's branch line, the first train didn't arrive at the platform. All the passengers were waiting and looking up at the big station clock

Back in the shed, Thomas was not happy. His driver had not come in yet. He didn't want to be late, but without his driver, what could he do?

At last Thomas's driver came running into the shed. "I'm sorry I'm late," he said. "My clock must have stopped last night. I didn't know what time it was."

Thomas hurried across the yard to collect Annie and Clarabel. "We're late, we're late," puffed Thomas.

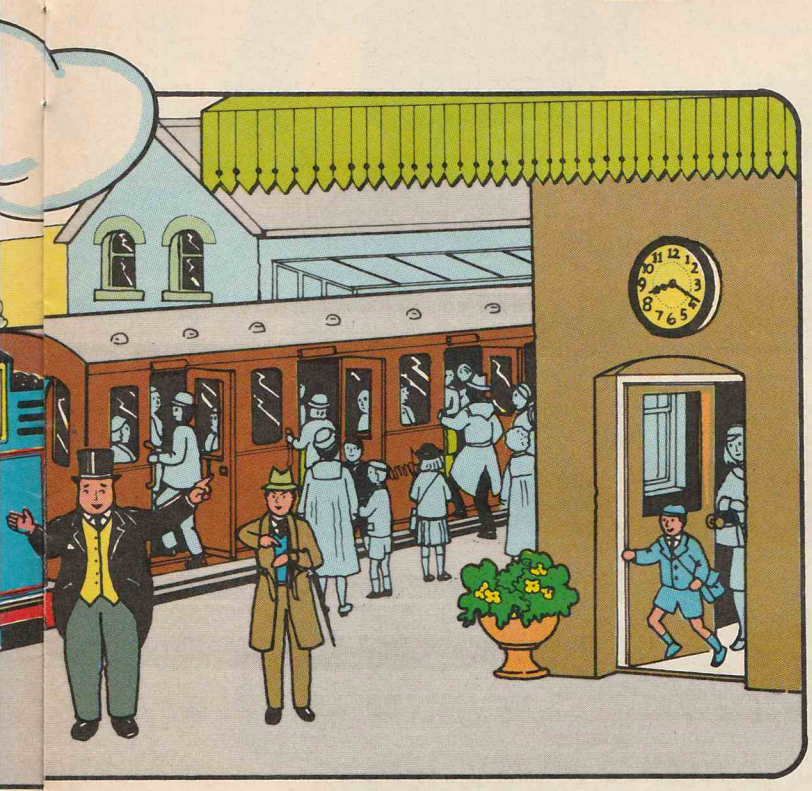
"It's not our fault, it's not our fault," complained Annie and Clarabel.



Thomas pulled up to the platform. The Fat Controller was there. All the people were telling him what a bad railway it was, but they were glad to see Thomas. They all rushed to get on board.

"You will have to work hard to make up the time, Thomas," said the Fat Controller. "But don't go too fast or you might come off the rails."

Hurry!



Then the guard blew his whistle, and Thomas left the station. "I'll have to go as fast as Gordon," said Thomas. "Hurry, hurry, hurry."

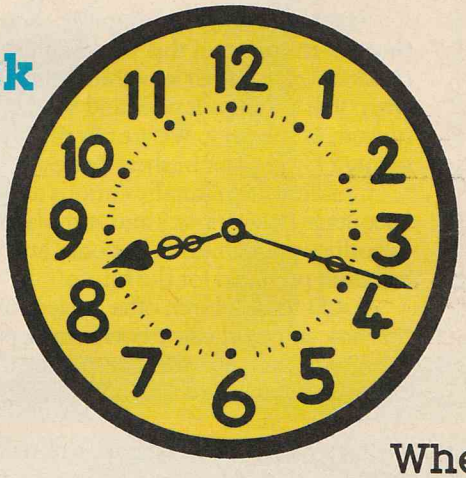
"You're not the express, you're not the express," complained Annie and Clarabel.

When Thomas reached the last station on the line he was very tired. But there wasn't time to rest. Thomas looked up at the station clock. "Oh, no," said Thomas. "It's already time to go back."

Thomas worked very hard to hurry back. He was feeling hot but he didn't stop. "I won't be late, I won't be late," he puffed. But the harder he worked the hotter he became.

As Thomas pulled into the station the Fat Controller looked up at the clock on the wall. "Very good, Thomas," he said. "You are right on time." But Thomas was too hot to listen. As soon as the passengers were out of the train, he puffed off to the water tower for a drink.

clock



When Thomas had cooled down again, his driver promised to buy a new clock, so that he would never be late again.

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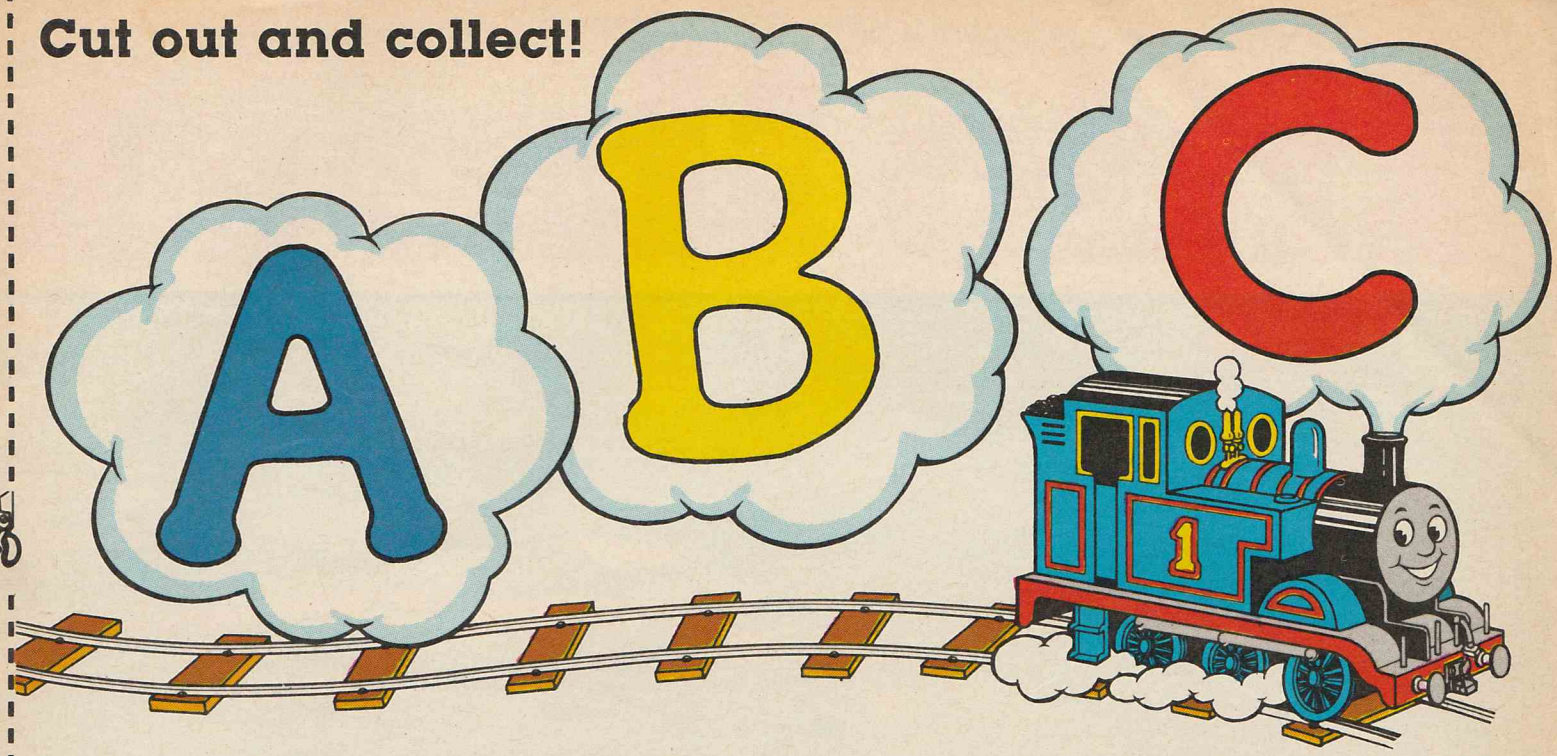

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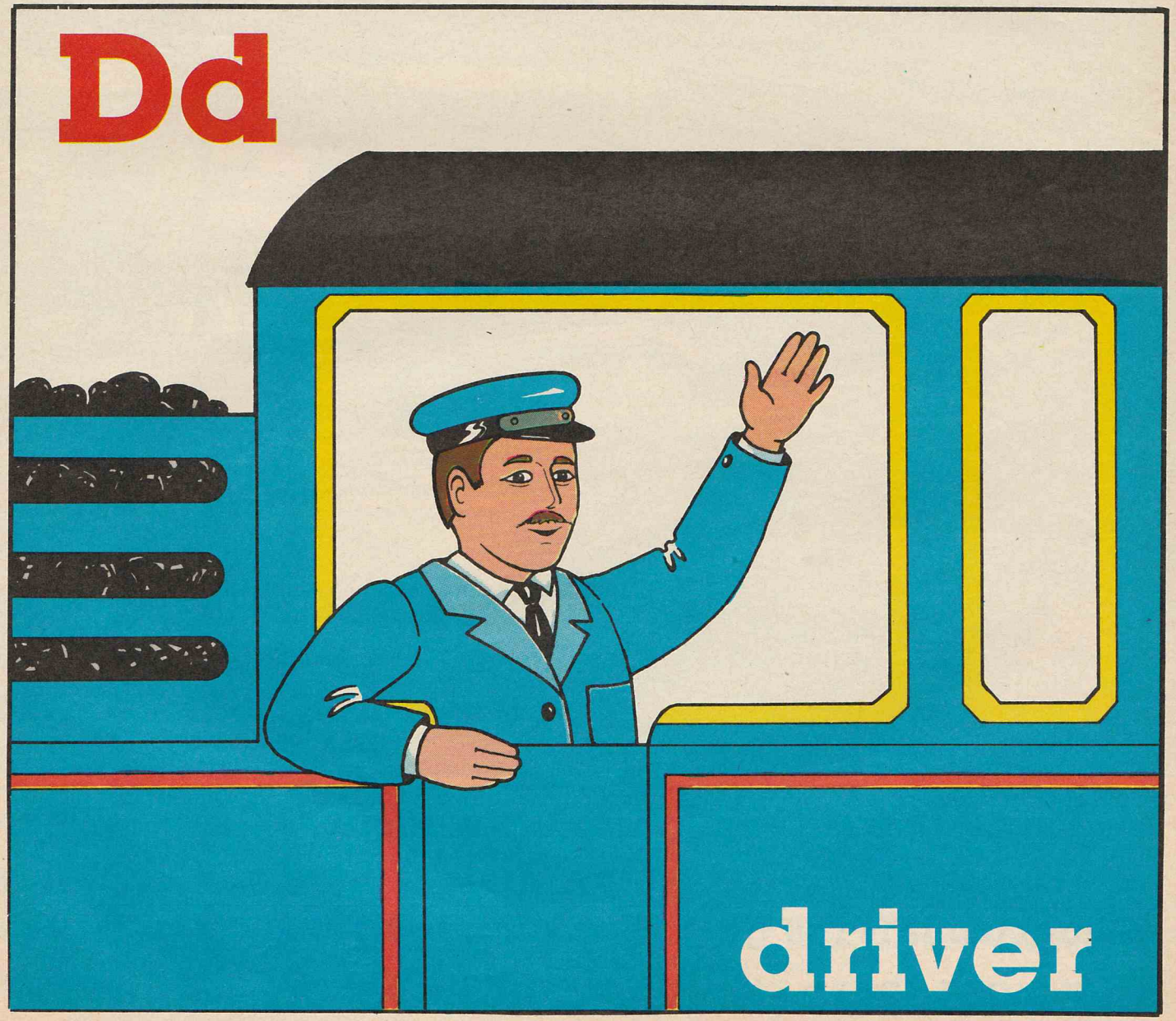
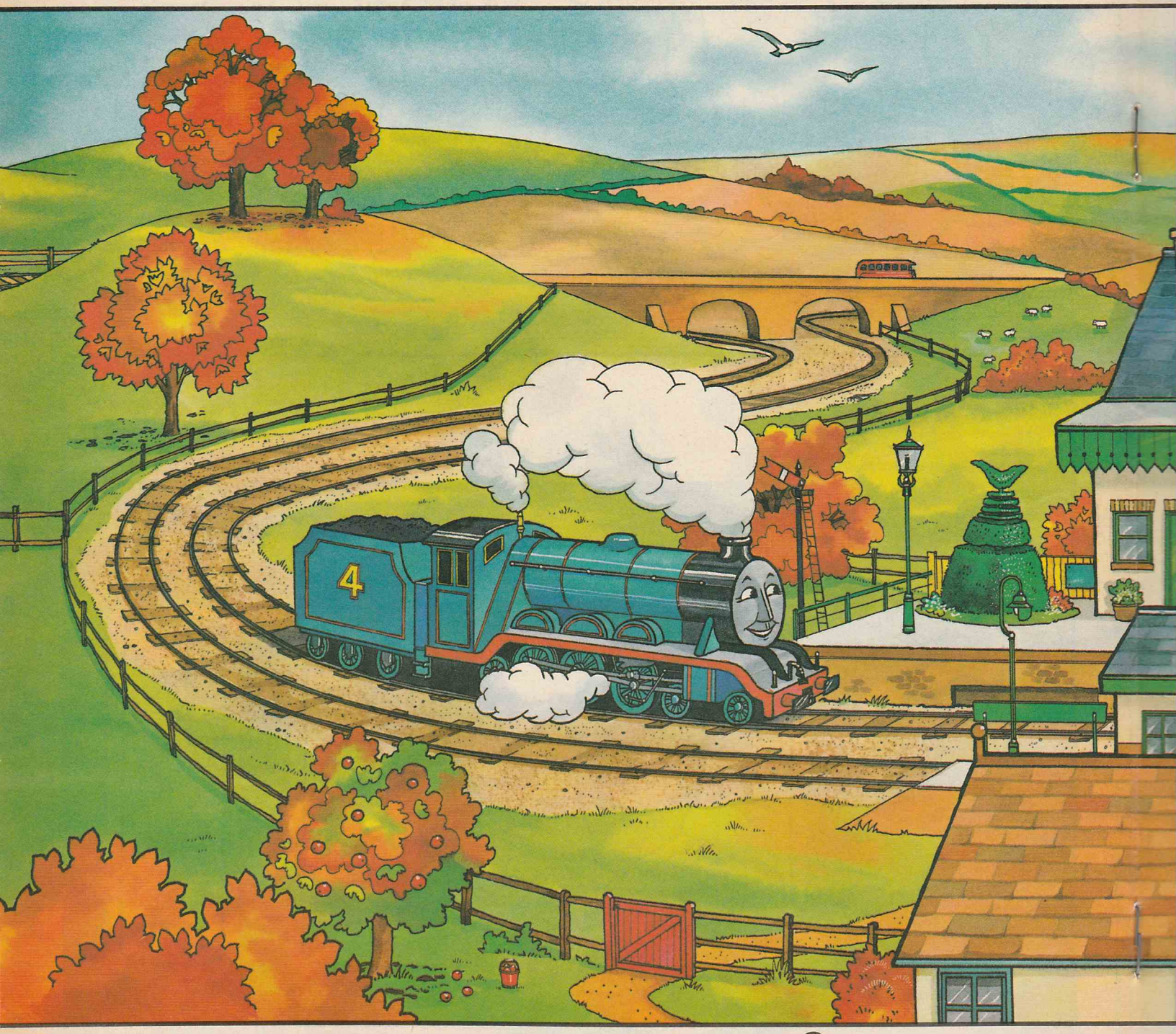


Into the sta



Which engine is coming into the station?

How many apples are on the tree?

What colour is the gate by the apple tree?

How many sheep can you see in the field?

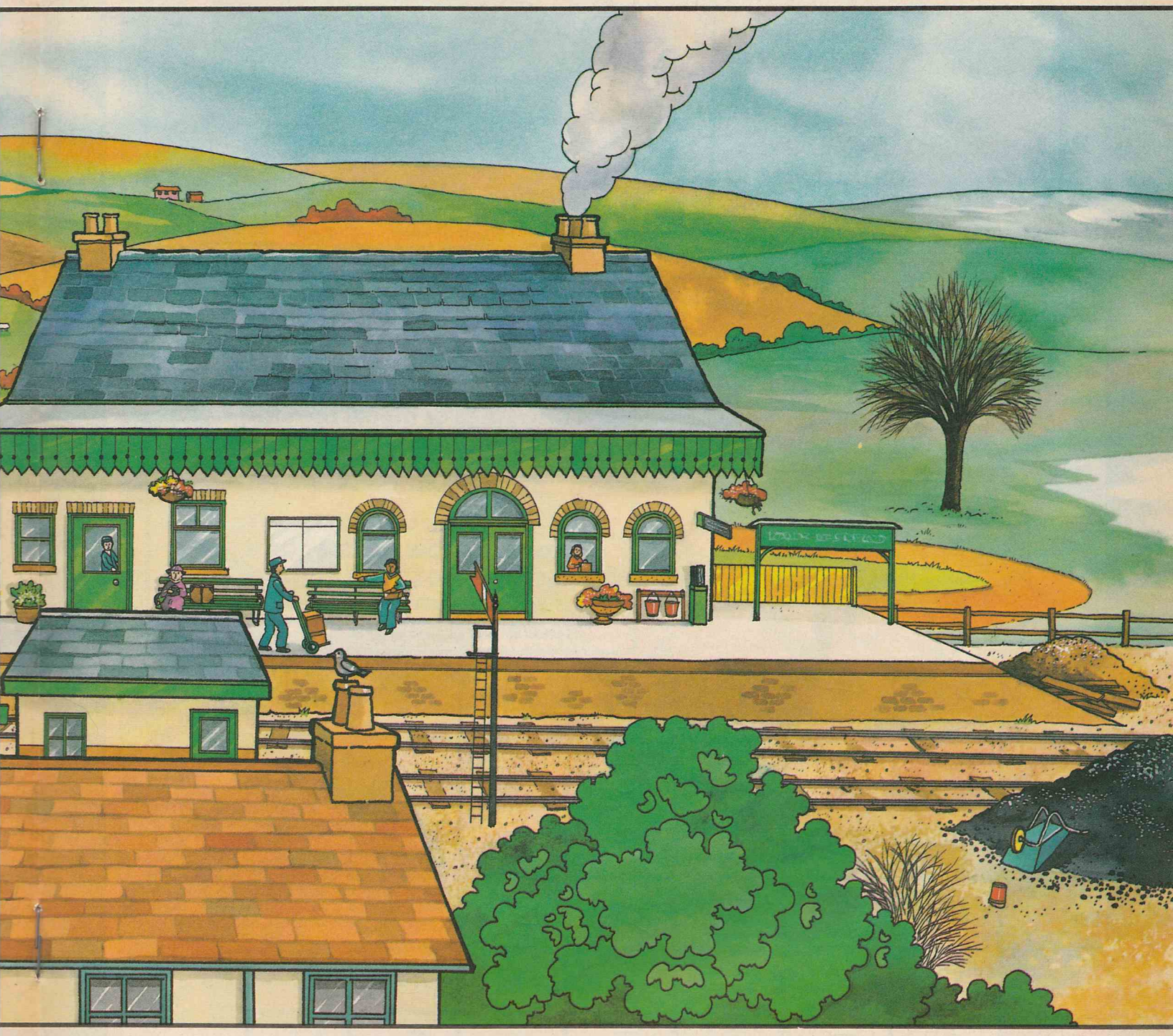
Where is B

Can you fi

There are f

picture. C

ation!



is Bertie the bus?

ou find the wheelbarrow?

are four red buckets in the

re. Can you find them?

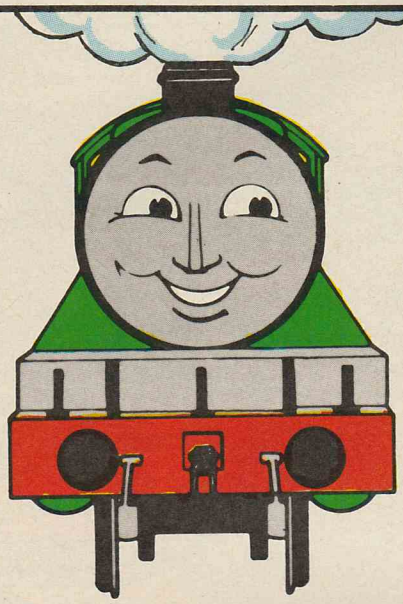
Note for parents

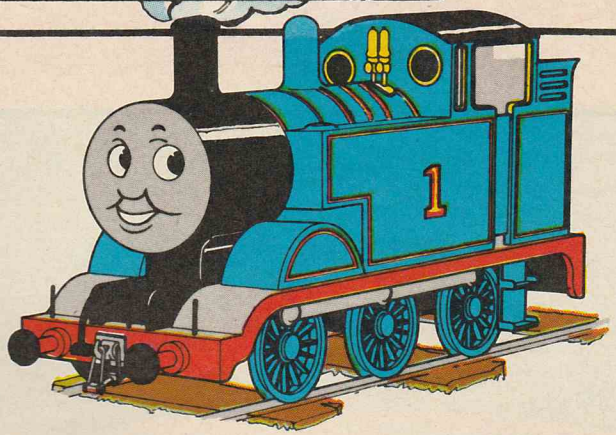
This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room?

Next: Round the lake!

PUZZLE TIME!

Thomas and Henry have a puzzle for you! Look at the clues below, and see if you can fill in the words in the spaces at the bottom of the page. Some of the letters are already there to help you.





1. This is made from hot water and helps to drive the engines along.
2. Thomas has two of these, called Annie and Clarabel.
3. He is the most powerful of all the engines.
4. Long lines of metal that the engines run on.
5. These can be very troublesome at times!
6. Engines with coaches arrive here to pick up their passengers.
7. A smart little green engine.
8. To slow down the driver shuts off steam and puts on the .....

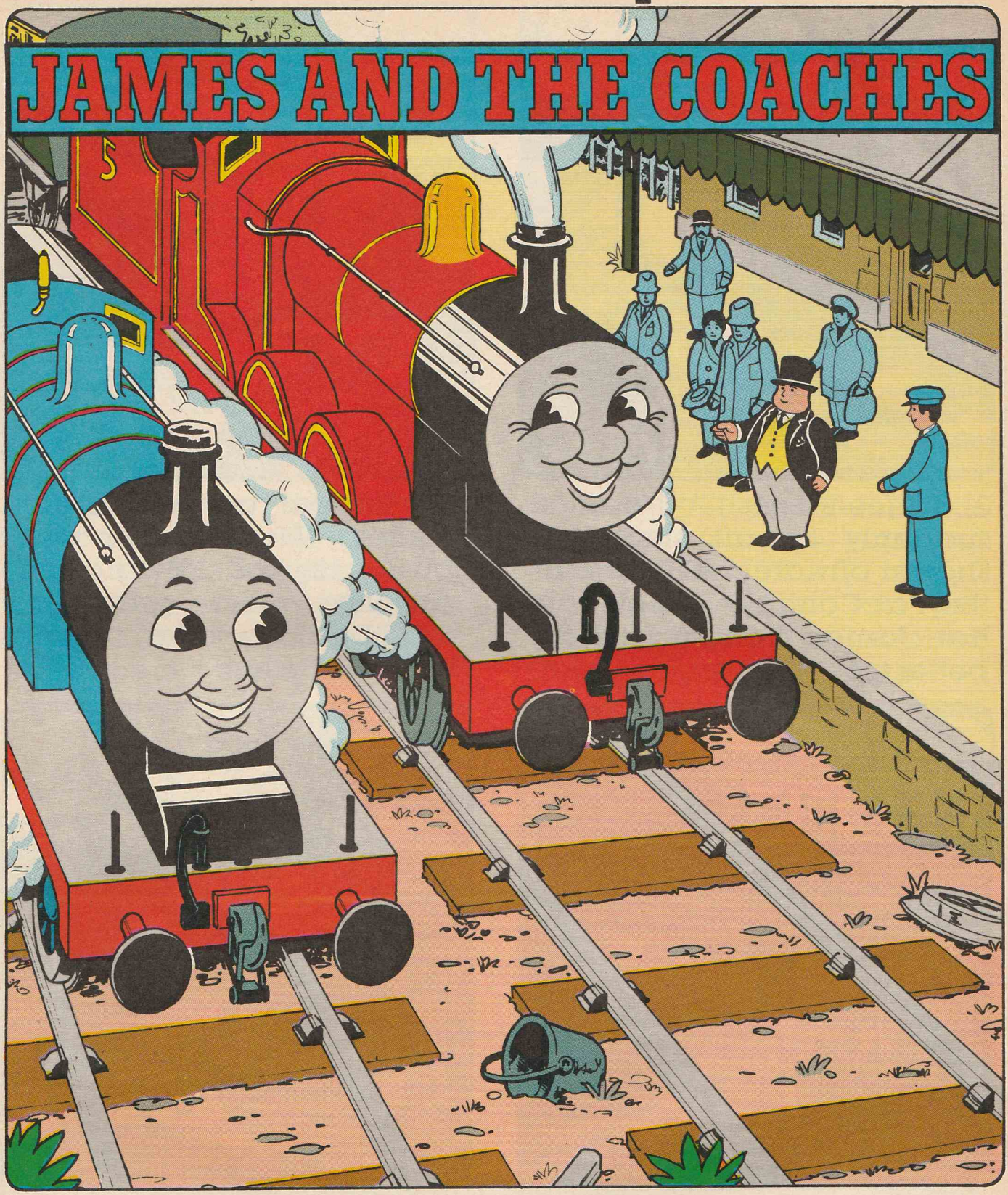
1.	S	T	E	A	M		
2.	C	O	A	C	H	E	S
3.	G	O	R	D	O	N	
4.	R	A	I	L	S		
5.	T	R	U	C	K	S	
6.	S	T	A	T	I	O	N
7.	H	E	N	R	Y		
8.	B	R	A	K	E	S	

Answers

1. steam 2. coaches 3. Gordon 4. rails 5. trucks 6. station 7. Percy 8. brakes

Peep! Peep! How did you do?

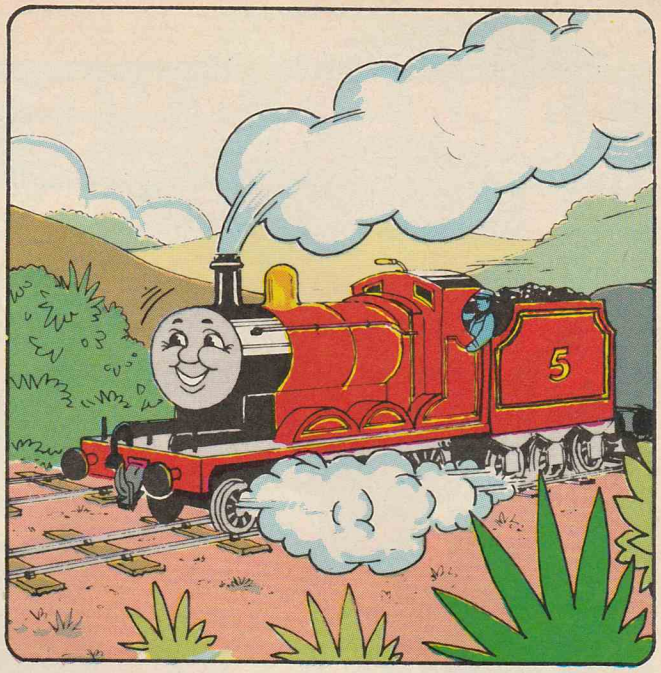
A listen and look story!



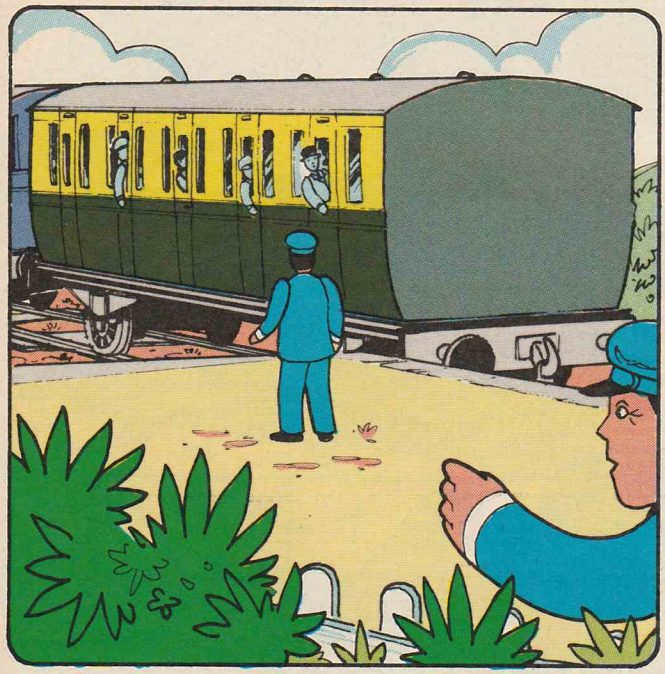
1. James was enjoying life on the Island of Sodor, but he still had a lot to learn. "You must learn from your mistakes, James," said the Fat Controller.

2. "Be careful not to bump the coaches, James," said Edward. "They don't like it." Then everyone came to admire James. He thought, "I'm a splendid engine."

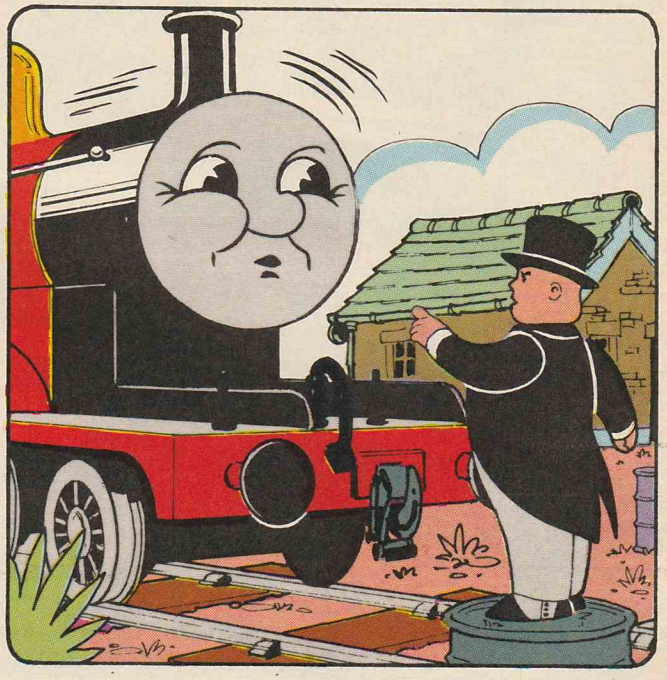
3. "Whee-ee-eesh!" James suddenly let off steam. A shower of water fell down on the Fat Controller's new top hat. James thought he had better go.



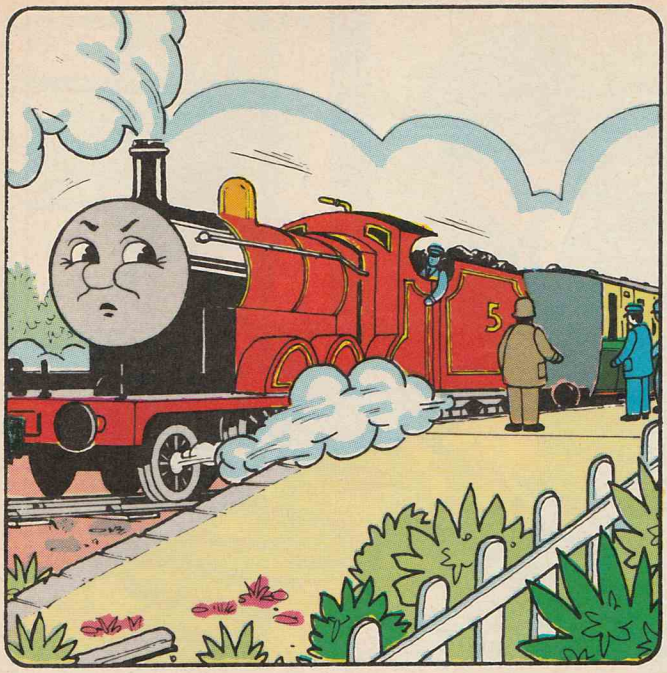
4. "Go on, go on," puffed James. "Don't push, don't push," replied Edward. The coaches were grumbling too, "Don't go so fast." James wouldn't listen.



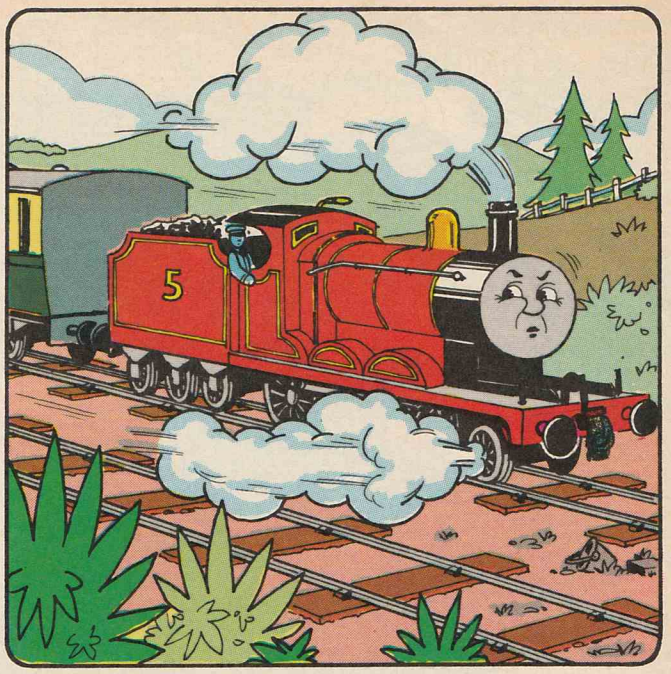
5. When they stopped at the next station, two coaches were beyond the platform. They had to go back to let the passengers out. That was a bad mistake.



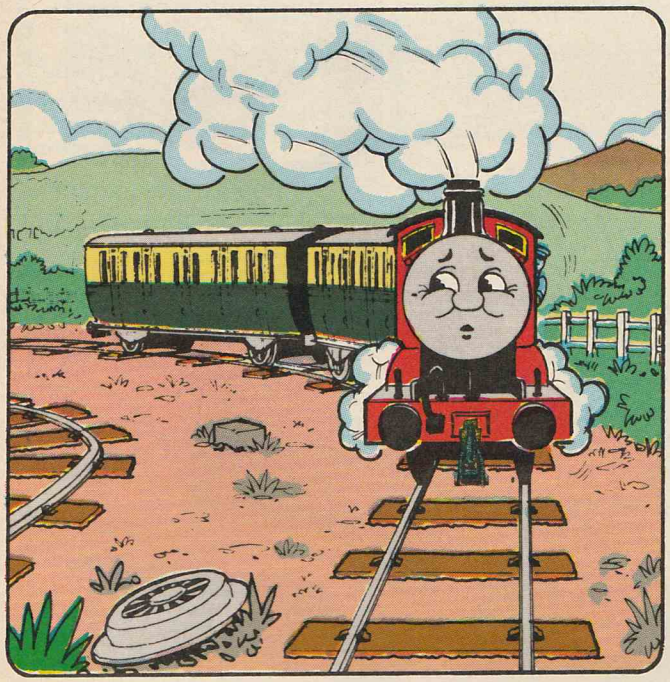
6. The next morning the Fat Controller spoke severely to James. "If you can't behave I'll take away your red coat and have you painted blue." James didn't like that.



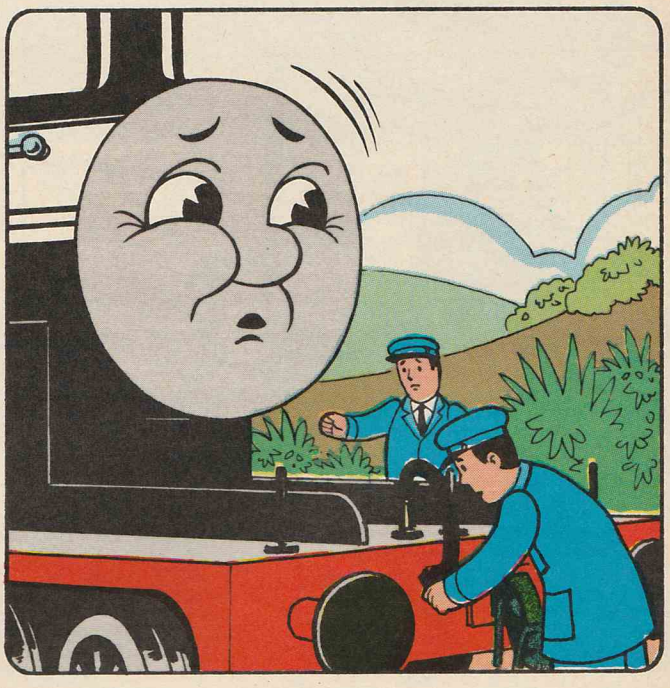
7. He was very rough with the coaches as he brought them to the platform. To make him even more cross, no one came near him. "I'll show them," thought James.



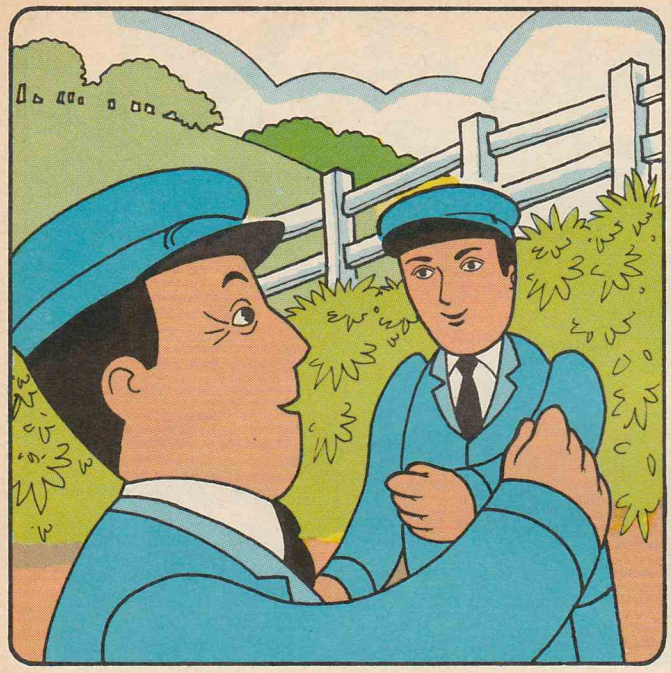
8. "I can pull coaches just as well as Gordon," puffed James. "Hurry, hurry, hurry." "You are going too fast, you are going too fast," replied the coaches. James laughed.



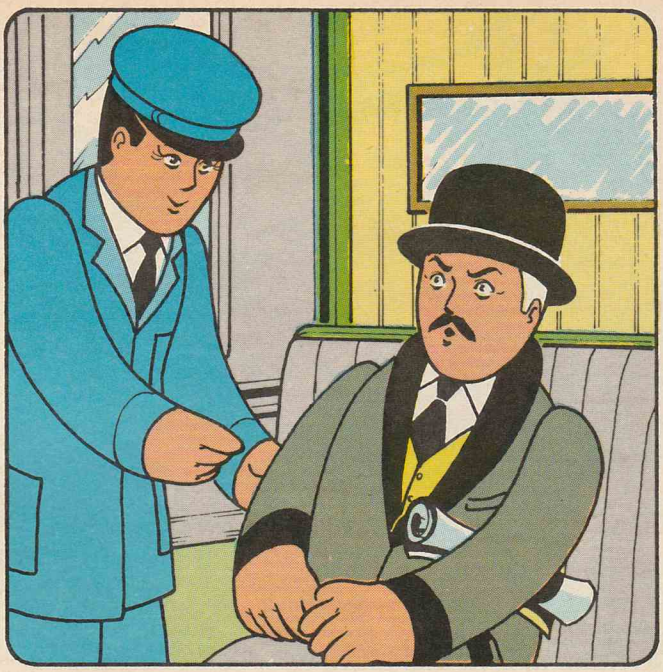
9. James tried to go faster but the coaches wouldn't let him. "We're going to stop," they said. "We're – going – to – stop." James asked his driver, "What's the matter?"



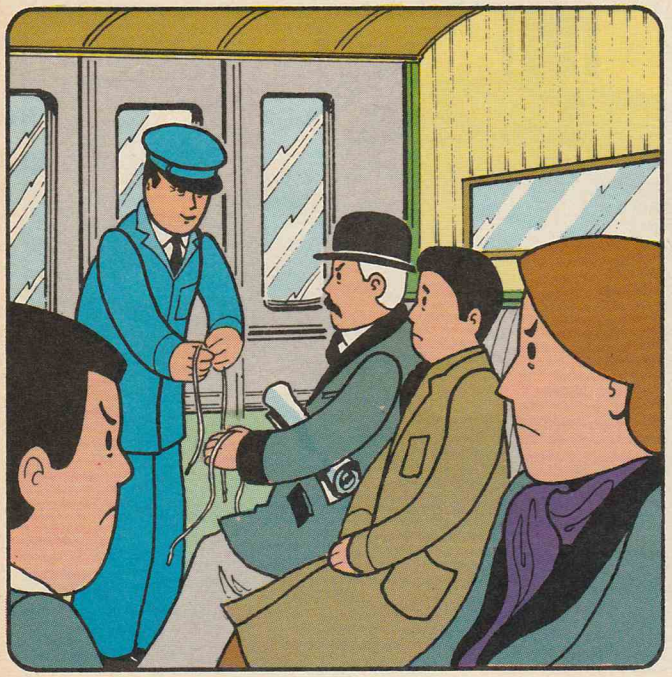
10. "The brakes are full on. Must be a leak in the pipe," said his driver. "You have banged the coaches enough to make a leak in anything." He turned to the guard.



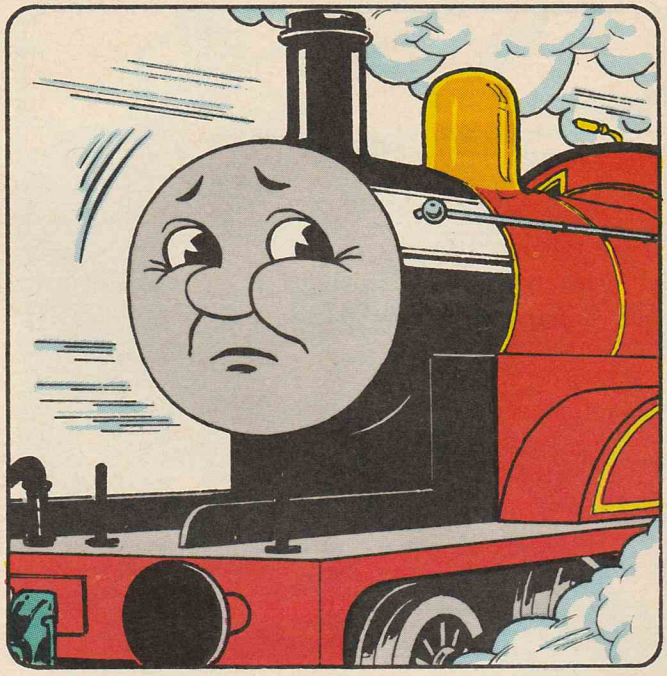
11. "We need newspaper and a bootlace to mend it," said the driver. "Where shall I get a bootlace?" asked the guard. "Ask the passengers," said the driver.



12. "I need your bootlace sir," said the guard to a smart man. "Please, give it to me." "I won't," replied the man. "Then the train will stop here," said the guard.



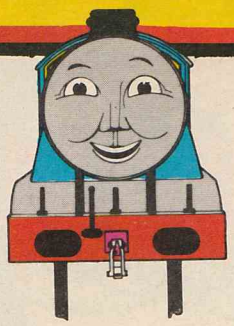
13. The passengers all said what a bad railway it was. Then they told the man how bad he was. Everyone was very cross. At last the man handed his laces over.



14. The driver tied a pad of newspaper tightly round the hole in the brake pipe, and James was able to pull the train. But he took care not to bump coaches again.

THE END

COMPETITION



★ 100 Prizes to be Won! ★

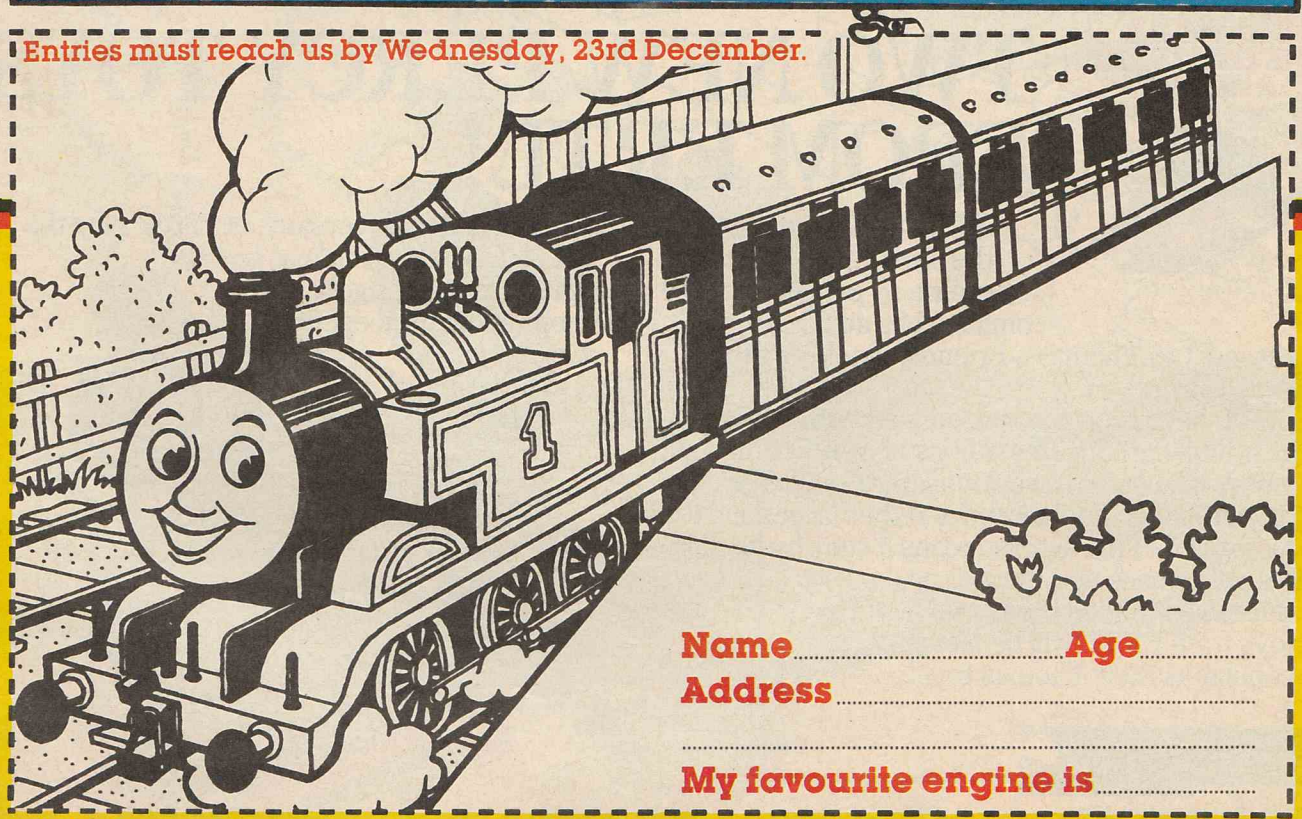
Here's Gordon the Big Express Engine! He's arrived to tell us all about this splendid colouring competition!

There are *100* Thomas the Tank Engine Tell-a-Tale talking books to be won! How would *you* like to listen to your favourite stores being read to you on tape – and follow them in your book at the same time!

HOW TO ENTER

All you have to do is colour in the picture below as carefully as you can. Then fill in the form, cut along the dotted line and send your entry to: *Gordon's Splendid Colouring Competition, The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA.*

Entries must reach us by Wednesday, 23rd December.



Name ..... **Age** .....

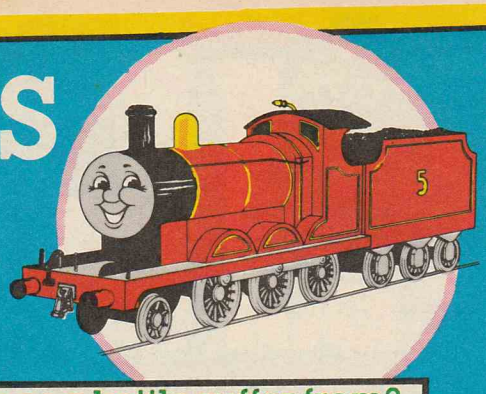
Address .....

.....

My favourite engine is .....

Rules: No employee of Marvel Comics Ltd, Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd, Wiliam Heinemann Ltd or Pickwick Group plc may enter this competition. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

JAMES'S JAPES



Thank you for sending us all your funny jokes. Here are a few of James's favourites!

Why did the farmer call his pig Ink?
Because it kept running out of its pen!
Ben Armstrong.

What does a kettle suffer from?
Boils!
Andrew Girling.

What paper is most tuneful?
Notepaper!
Jodie Cummings.

What is red, wobbles and flies?
A jelly copter!
Annette.

Doctor! Doctor! I feel like a pack of cards!
I'll deal with you later!
Kirsty O'Flanagan.

When do you know that there's an elephant under your bed?
When your nose is touching the ceiling!
Michael Morris.

ADVERTISEMENT

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

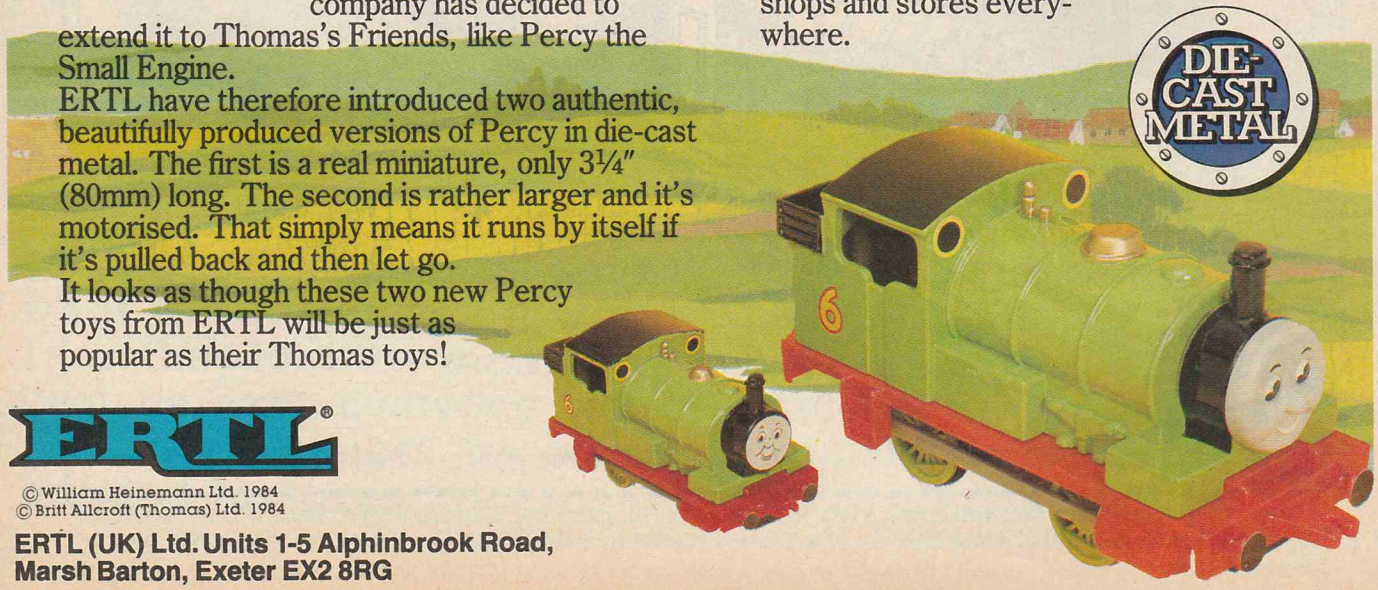
TWO NEW PERCY TOYS FROM ERTL!

ERTL's range of Thomas the Tank Engine toys has become so popular that the company has decided to extend it to Thomas's Friends, like Percy the Small Engine.

ERTL have therefore introduced two authentic, beautifully produced versions of Percy in die-cast metal. The first is a real miniature, only 3¼" (80mm) long. The second is rather larger and it's motorised. That simply means it runs by itself if it's pulled back and then let go.

It looks as though these two new Percy toys from ERTL will be just as popular as their Thomas toys!

You can find both versions of Percy, plus the ERTL models of Thomas and his other Friends, at good toy shops and stores everywhere.



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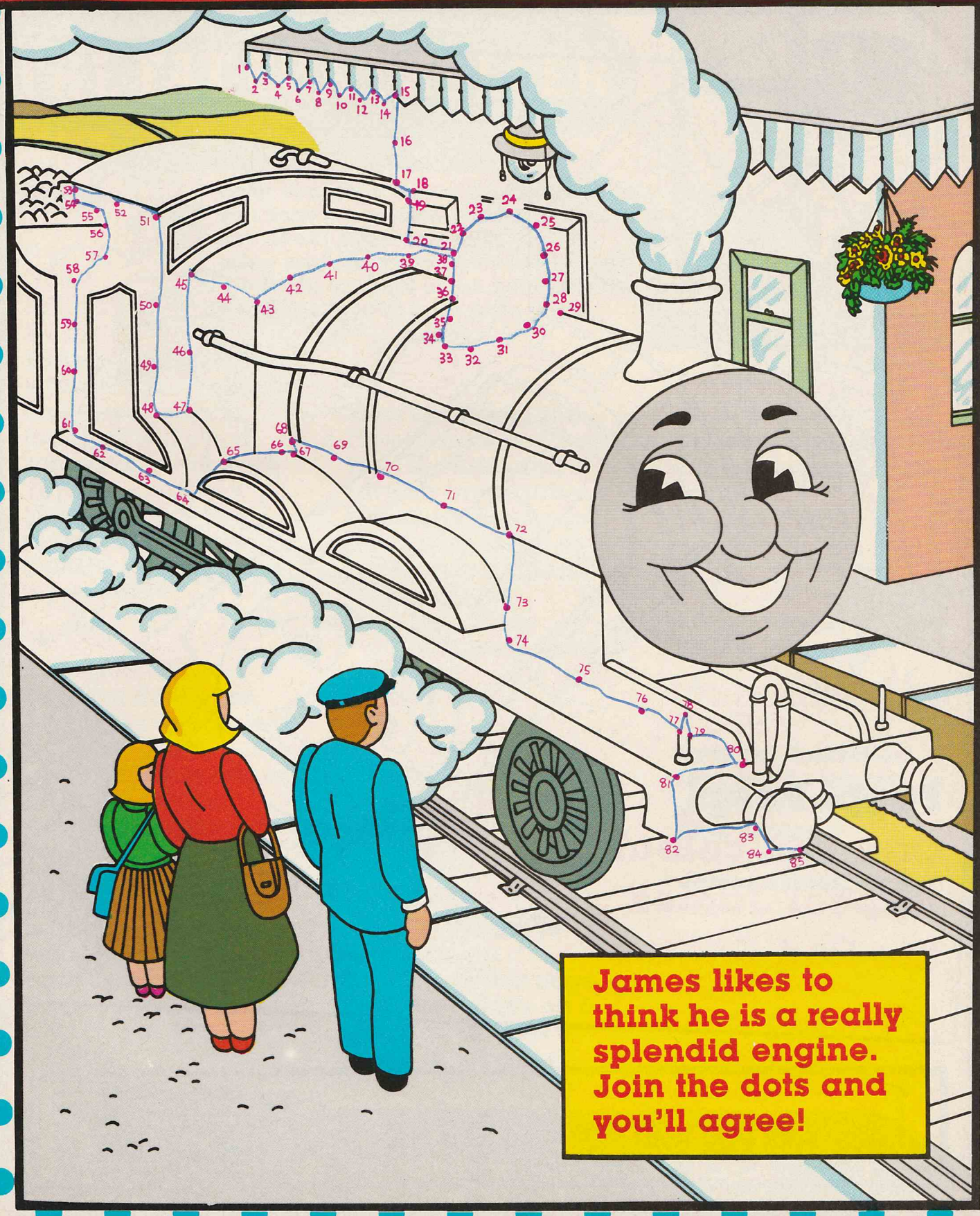
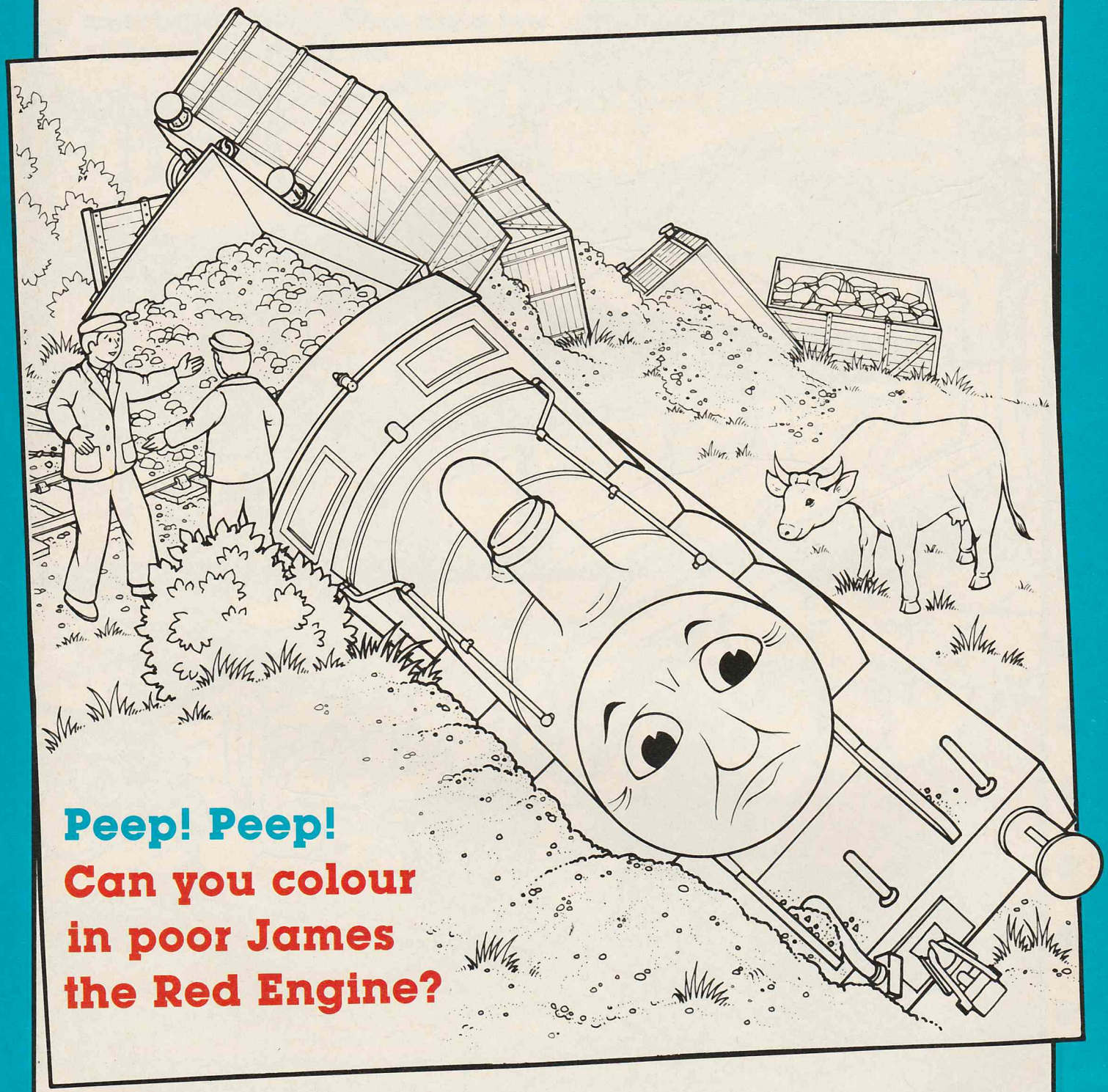
ERTL (UK) Ltd. Units 1-5 Alphinbrook Road, Marsh Barton, Exeter EX2 8RG

JOIN THE DOTS!

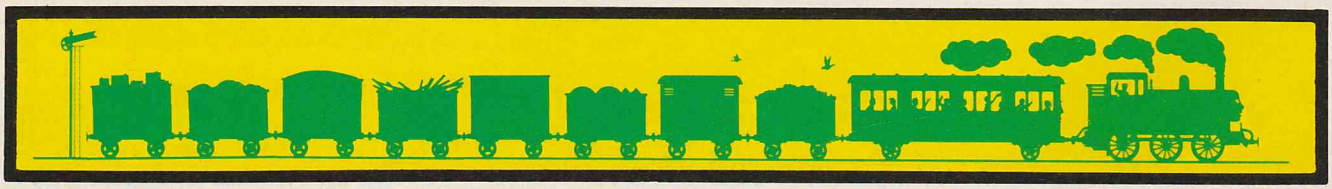


James likes to think he is a really splendid engine. Join the dots and you'll agree!

COLOURING TIME!



Peep! Peep!
Can you colour in poor James the Red Engine?



Write to:

THE FAT CONTROLLER

Have you got a funny story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address at the bottom of the page! I'd *love* to hear from you!

STAR LETTER PRIZES

The sender of the best letter which is printed on this page each fortnight will win a splendid **Thomas the Tank Engine Mug,** from *Bluebird*. So please don't forget to include your address if you write!

THOMAS ON TELEVISION!

Dear Fat Controller,
My brother is only two but when your programme comes on he jumps up and down with excitement, shouting **Thomas! Train!** and **Track!** His name is Rico. He loves reading your books as well.
Love **Jessica Hayes.**
Upon my soul! I am very glad to hear it, Jessica!

JAMES THE RED ENGINE!

Dear Fat Controller,
I love James because he is so smart and I love his brass dome. I think he is your most handsome engine and I have made a model of him!
Love from **Chris Maynard,** aged 5.
Yes, his dome is rather splendid, is it not? Especially after it has been freshly polished!
Chris Maynard wins a Bluebird **Thomas the Tank Engine Mug** for his letter.

BIRTHDAYS!

If you'd like me to mention your birthday on this page, send me details on a postcard, at least *8 weeks* in advance!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

★★★★★★★★★

Readers who have birthdays this month include *Elizabeth Hazell, Mark Rigby, Lee William Ford, Matthew Walmsey* and *Andrew Fury!* Many happy returns to you all!

TENDERS OR TANKS?

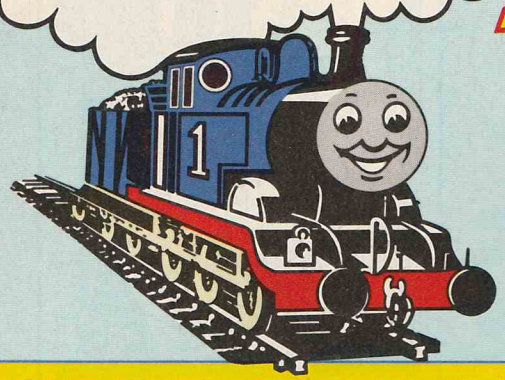
Dear Fat Controller,
Do you like tender engines more than tank engines?
From your friend,
James Ashton, aged 3.
*I am very fond of **all** my engines, James!*

Yours,
Sir Topham Hatt.
The Fat Controller

Send your letters to:

The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA.

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS



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PERCY AND HAROLD
POP GOES THE DIESEL
THOMAS COMES TO BREAKFAST
DAISY

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THOMAS'S CHRISTMAS PARTY
THOMAS & THE MISSING CHRISTMAS TREE

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THOMAS AND TERENCE
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TOBY AND THE STOUT GENTLEMAN

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